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The Ter-Centenary of Jamestown.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Virginia Historical Society, held February 9, 1901, the following was adopted:

Resolved, That the Virginia Historical Society express its hearty approval of the plan of celebrating the Ter-centenary of the settlement at Jamestown, and that a committee be appointed to draft resolutions or a paper to this effect.

The committee, composed of Messrs. Joseph Bryan, President of the Society, W. Meade Clark, W. Gordon McCabe and D. C. Richardson, report the following paper:

The Historic Interest of the Settlement at Jamestown.

No expression of opinion which the few have been deputed to make in behalf of the many ever represented greater unanimity of feeling than the paper prepared by the undersigned—members of a sub-committee—under the resolution of our Executive Committee, which speaks for the Virginia Historical Society. Not only as Virginians, but as citizens of the United States, do we feel how momentous was the settlement at Jamestown in 1607, and how fit and proper it is that its three hundredth anniversary should be celebrated in the most honorable and becoming manner.

This little settlement, small and weak and insignificant as it seemed, meant more than any colonial settlement that was ever made in the history of the world. It meant the opening of a new world, the birthday of a great nation, the beginning of a new civilization and christianity. It meant, in some ways the revolutionizing of human thought, and the development of the human mind in entirely new directions. It meant the birth of governmental ideas hitherto undreamed of, and the reaction from these ideas was to revolutionize Europe itself. It meant the beginning of a commercial development which would change the appearance of the globe, and effect the affairs of the business world for ages to come. Especially should it mean much to the States descended from the sister colonies, whose foundation was in some degree made possible by the success of Jamestown.

As to the States formed from Virginia, or from territory formerly Virginia's, they will feel, only in a less degree, that personal interest in Jamestown which inspires the mother State.

And as the birthplace of our nation this spot is memorable to all the States, old and new.

Here, in 1619, the first Legislative Assembly convened in America met, and here, soon afterwards, it was asserted by legislative enactment that no taxes should be imposed save by the people, through their representatives.

Not only was this little House of Burgesses the fore-runner of the United States Congress, and of our State Legislatures, but it was the first legislative assembly in any English colony. Canadian and Australian parliaments can look on it as an elder sister. As this Jamestown legislature marked the beginning of local legislation in England's colonies, so the charter under which the settlement at Jamestown was made was the first in the long series of laws establishing colonial governments, of which the Australian federation is the latest.

Considered then in its proper light, the settlement at Jamestown is of American (in the broadest sense of the word), and, indeed, of world-wide interest. From this now almost deserted spot the mind's eye sees our whole country, and all that it has come to be, and going farther abroad sees Mexico and the nations of Central and South America modelling their governments on that of which Jamestown was the beginning.

No argument is therefore needed to prove that the Ter-centenary in 1907 should be celebrated by the whole American people in as fitting and imposing a manner as possible. What the nature of this celebration shall be can not yet be determined. It will, in fact, be what the amount of interest felt, not only in Virginia but throughout the rest of the United States, may make it. The plan which is now advocated by the public bodies of Richmond is that there shall be at Richmond a great industrial and historical exposition and suitable commemorative exercises at Jamestown. Naturally the interest of this Society is chiefly in the historical celebration. All plans are as yet too undeveloped to be discussed here. What is desired at present is to arouse interest throughout the country, and to request endorsement of the *idea* of some appropriate celebration.

No organizations can feel a deeper or more intelligent interest in this matter than the various historical and antiquarian societies of the country, and from them we respectfully ask hearty support and aid in producing the general approval needed to make, not necessarily an exposition, but the commemoration of the three hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown, what it should be.

While asking the support of others, Virginians are by no means idle. On June 12, 1900, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (which owns all that is left of Jamestown) adopted resolutions favoring a proper national celebration, and appointed a committee which has proceeded diligently to carry out the duties assigned to it.

In September, the Business Men's Association of Williamsburg, the old city only seven miles from Jamestown, which succeeded it as the colonial capital, and which has so many historic memories of its own, also took up the work, and is laboring well in the cause. During its late session the Virginia Legislature passed formal resolutions approving heartily the plan of a celebration, requesting the Governor to call attention to the matter in his message to the next legislature, and requesting also the Virginia members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives to endeavor to have approving action taken by Congress, and to obtain the favorable consideration of the President in the effort to make the celebration a national one.

Early in March, the Richmond "Clericus" of the Protestant Episcopal Church, regarding May 13, 1607, as the birthday of that Church in the United States, took the first steps in an endeavor to have their General Convention hold its session at Richmond in 1907, with, of course, suitable exercises at Jamestown.

The press of Virginia, and of the country generally, has endorsed the proposed celebration.

JOSEPH BRYAN,
W. MEADE CLARK,
W. GORDON MCCABE,
D. C. RICHARDSON.

GENEALOGY.

THE ROBARDS FAMILY.

(CONTINUED FROM P. 312, JANUARY, 1900, VOL. VII, NO. 3.)

Data from Douglas Register of Goochland parish, Va., records at Washington, D. C., family Bibles, etc.

Last will of JOHN ROBARDS, died in 1755, in Goochland county, Va.

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Robards of Goochland County, &c., dispose of my Estate as Followeth:

Item. I lend to my Beloved wife, Sarah Robards, two negros, Berry and Peter, and part of my Land and Likewise part of ye House and furniture as Long as she Continues a wider, and then to fall to my son William Robards.

Item. I give to my son William Robards, Two neigros, Bristor and Bess, and the Land he now live on, with all the Cattle, Horses, Mares, Sheep, hoggs and all that belongs to ye Plantation, onley desier his mother may have a Liveing out of itt as long as Shee Live.



THE OLD CHURCH TOWER AT JAMESTOWN.

See page 416.

**Courtesy of the Association for the
Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.**